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## BULLETIN

## of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume XI

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Number 1

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended.
- Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

### New Titles for Children and Young People

- R Alcott, Louisa May. Little Men; illus.  
5-7 with four colour plates, and line  
drawings in the text by Harry  
Toothill. Dutton, 1957. 335p.  
(Children's Illustrated Classics.)  
\$3.25.

An attractive edition, with large clear type and acceptable, although not especially outstanding illustrations. The story seems somewhat didactic and moralizing for modern readers and will probably not remain as popular as Little Women.

- M Arden, Barbi. Remembered Island.  
7-9 Holt, 1956. 224p. \$2.75.

Rhoda Brown and Ken Lee had been seriously in love and Ken's letters from Korea were full of memories of their summers at Lake Indigo. Ken is killed, however, and soon after a best-seller, Indigo Afternoons by Will Nash, appears, which Rhoda suspects is really Ken's work. She goes to Lake Indigo and secures the help of Peter Strasser, a close friend of hers and Ken's, in searching for proof that Nash is a plagiarist. Rhoda's eventual adjust-

ment to Ken's death and her falling in love with Peter are predictable, but fairly well-handled. The search for evidence begins well, but unfortunately becomes melodramatic. After all hope of finding real proof is gone, and Nash has suffered a heart attack trying to thwart Rhoda and Peter, Mrs. Nash breaks down and discloses her husband's guilt. The ending of the book falls quite flat.

- SpC Asher, Hellen Drummond. A Child's Thought  
3-5 of God; A Poem Based on Psalm 104;  
yrs. illus. by Dorothy Grider. Rand McNally,  
1957. 41p. 75¢.

A small child says Thank You to God for all the things in the world he most enjoys—animals and people, the seasons, etc. The sentimental, calendar art drawings are without artistic value. The text, which is an interpretation of the 104th Psalm, is adequate for home or Sunday School libraries wanting additional materials of this sort.

- NR Austin, Margot. Churchmouse Stories; A  
K-2 Collection of Peter Churchmouse and  
Other Children's Favorites. Dutton,  
1956. 172p. \$3.50.

A collection of stories, already published separately, of personified animals who live in a church and the long-suffering Parson who puts up with

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63 them. Peter Churchmouse, Gabriel Churchkitten, Trumpet Churchdog, and the Three Silly Kittens are as unappealing and ridiculous in the collection as in their separate editions. Peter's poems are without rhythm or imagination and the one-page stories which compose the section entitled the Three Silly Kittens read like a second-rate vaudeville script. The illustrations might appeal to very young children and are done in cartoon style in color as well as black and white.

50 Ad Ballard, Lois. The True Book of Reptiles; pictures by Irma Wilde.

Childrens Press, 1957. 47p. \$2.

A simplified introduction to reptiles. In short, relatively easy sentences the author explains what reptiles in general are like and then discusses specific kinds—turtles, snakes, alligators, etc. The information is generally accurate, although the over-simplifications could lead to mis-conceptions. The text is written at a middle second grade reading level, but could be used by younger readers who had had prior vocabulary work on some of the more technical words.

NR Barry, Robert E. Faint George, Who Wanted To Be a Knight. Houghton, 1957. 32p. \$2.50.

Faint George decides he wants to be a brave and bold knight, so he makes himself a suit of armor, builds a garden and castle and sets forth to slay a dragon. This proves more difficult than he had anticipated, and he ends by imprisoning the dragon in his castle where it eats so much it cannot get out. Thereupon George fastens the castle to the dragon's back and rides it around the countryside. The humor in both the illustrations, which are a combination of cartoon and illuminated manuscript type drawings, and the text is highly sophisticated and too adult to have much meaning for young children.

W R Batchelor, Julie Forsyth. Sea Lady; 3-5 illus. by William M. Hutchinson. Harcourt, 1956. 60p. \$2.25.

A well-written story of a boy of Essex, Connecticut, during the War of 1812, when the work of building ships continued in spite of the British blockade of Long Island Sound. Denny's grandfather was a retired captain and now carved figureheads for the ships that were being built. A suspicious clam peddler, a heavy fog and the beautifully carved Sea Lady (a figurehead) are combined to make a story which will hold the interest of most boys. Fourth grade readers could handle the story adequately and it is suitable for reading

aloud to younger children.

M Beals, Carleton. Adventure of the Western Sea; illus. by Jacob Landau. Holt, 1956. 192p. \$2.75.

Written from actual ships logs, this is the story of Robert Gray, who was the first to carry the American flag around the world. The original mission was fur-trading, but the motive of empire building slowly and subtly entered the picture. The material is interesting for the most part, but the unvarying uniformity of sentence structure becomes boring. Unfortunately there is no set of maps or charts to accompany the chapters, and unless the reader is already familiar with the Northwest Pacific coast, the movements of ships are confusing. Sperry's River of the West (Winston, 1952) is a more readable story of the same voyage.

Ad Bethers, Ray. The Story of Rivers. Sterling, 3-5 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

A fairly simple explanation of how rivers originate, their effect on a country's physical geography, their value to mankind both as a source of water for farming and as an aid to transportation, and the varied forms in which they occur above and beneath the earth's surface. The book is somewhat too loosely organized to have much appeal for general reading but contains useful material for conservation units.

NR Boer, Friedrich, ed. Igloos, Yurts, and Totem Poles; Life and Customs of Thirteen Peoples around the Globe. Pantheon Books, 1957. 124p. \$3.50.

Four scientists from the Hamburg Museum of Ethnology and Prehistory have written these accounts of life as it might be seen by a child in each of the thirteen cultures represented. The cultures are: the Eskimos of North Canada, the Haida and Jivaro Indians, the Feugians, the Tuaregs of the Sahara, the Nuer of the Upper Nile, the Ba-Congo People, the Bushmen of Australia, the Mbowombs of New Guinea, the Samoans, the Kazakh-Kirghiz and Ostyaks of Siberia. The information is accurate and generally useful, but the presentation is most unfortunate. Each account is told in the first person as if by a child, and the effort to give scientific information and yet keep the text in the words of a primitive child strains the authors' inventiveness far beyond the breaking point. The tone is frequently condescending and the style is often confusing, as references are made to something that can be seen in a picture and again to something that the reader is supposed to be seeing in his imagination. A map is included of each section, but the maps are so small that they are of no value in locating the areas involved. In fact, the place

being discussed is frequently completely hidden by the black dot used to indicate its location. The information could have some value for classes studying anthropology, but the book will have little appeal for general library use.

Ad Boreman, Jean. Mooloo, the Calf; illus. 1-2 by James Frew. Melmont, 1957. 21p. \$1.75.

In brief text and full page illustrations a calf is described when it is one hour old, one day old, one week old, one month old, one year old, and three years old—at which time it has a calf of its own. The text is easy enough for beginning readers and could be used as supplementary reading material.

NR Brennan, Gerald T. When Jesus Came; K-1 pictures by George Pollard. Bruce, 1956. 26p. (Christian Child's Stories) 50¢.

A quite pedestrian account of the Nativity that is in no way enhanced by the very mediocre illustrations accompanying it. Laminated board binding.

R Bromhall, Winifred. Bridget's Growing Day. Knopf, 1957. 36p. \$2.25. "Wee" Bridget resented her nickname even though she realized that her very short stature justified it. Then one day her father and mother had to be away from home all day and in caring for the house and animals Bridget proved herself capable of assuming responsibility, and no longer minded being called "Wee." A pleasing picture book, illustrated with Bromhall's usual chubby-cheeked characters.

NR Brown, Eleanor Frances. Mountain 7-9 Palomino; illus. by Patricia Palmer. Lothrop, 1956. 185p. \$3.

Less a horse story than a story of age-mate conflicts, this book takes young Jerry Holden and his cousin Lance through a year of jealous antagonism that almost ends in disaster for both boys. Lance has never been on a ranch until he comes to live with the Holdens after having made life miserable for his father and new step-mother, and he is determined not to like anything about the place. Jerry, an only child, is equally selfish and lacking in consideration for anyone else and goes out of his way to make Lance even more miserable. The two boys do not seem to undergo any apparent improvement in the course of their year together, but after having endangered their lives in a blizzard—Lance by running away and Jerry by going after him in defiance

of his parents and the doctor—the two become firm friends and agree to live happily together. The title refers to Jerry's horse, but it is only a minor character in the story.

R Brown, Palmer. Cheerful; A Picture- 3-6 Story. Harper, 1957. 58p. \$1.50.

Cheerful is a small churchmouse who longs to move from the city to the country where he can keep his four white paws clean. He finally reaches the country, via a sugar candy Easter egg, and finds it all that he had dreamed it would be. A small book (4" x 6"), whose delicate drawings should delight young children.

R Buchheimer, Naomi. Let's Go to a Post 2-4 Office; illus. by Ruth Van Sciver. Putnam, 1957. 48p. \$1.95.

Beginning with a very brief, one-paragraph history of man's efforts to get messages from one place to another, the author then turns to the modern post office and explains, in detail, how it functions. Two children, who appear in the illustrations but not in the text, are taken on a tour behind the scenes of a large city post office. The clear, fairly simple text is supplemented throughout by black and white drawings that help to explain the various processes involved. In a few instances parts of the illustrations have been lost in the inner margins. Because of the technical vocabulary, the text grades at a middle third grade reading level, but it could be read aloud to younger children and might be read independently where some prior vocabulary work has been done.

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Old Charlie; illus. 2-4 by Paul Galdone. Crowell, 1957. 81p. \$2.50.

Twelve-year-old Bruce and six-year-old Pinky Todd live alone with their father on Garden Street. Each day when he goes to work Mr. Todd cautions Bruce to take care of Pinky, and Bruce does try. One day Bruce learns that the horse, Old Charlie, that he had ridden at camp is to be sold to a horse-meat factory. Bruce and Pinky set out to earn enough money to buy the horse, in spite of their father's warning that they will not be allowed to keep it in the city. They succeed in buying it and then a neighbor comes to their aid by persuading her brother to keep it on his farm where the boys can visit it. A fairly simple story that will satisfy the needs of advanced second grade readers for a full-length book that they can read alone, and one that could be used as remedial material as high as the sixth grade.

R Butterfield, Marguerite Antoinette. Jaime 3-5 and His Hen Pollita; illus. by Susanne

Suba. Scribner, 1957. 121p. \$2.50.

An episodic recounting of the activities of seven-year-old Jaime and his hen Pollita, who live in a coastal village on Majorca. Jaime loses his hen, and finds her again; does errands for his mother; plays with his friends in the village, and has his dearest wish come true when he goes to the Good Friday Procession in the nearby city. A pleasant story of village life and an interesting picture of Majorca.

R Capron, Louis. The Blue Witch; illus. 7-9 by Douglas Gorsline. Holt, 1957. 256p. \$3.

Both thirteen-year-old David Scott and his father were taken in by the tales David's step-uncle, Gideon Wells, told of wealth to be had in the China trade. So effective were his tales that Mr. Scott gave his entire savings and David into Gideon's keeping. By the time he sailed from Boston, David was beginning to suspect that all was not well with his uncle, and in Key West his suspicions were confirmed, for Gideon turned out to be a member of a gang of wreckers who preyed on unfortunate vessels that went aground on the Florida reefs. After many adventures, involving a motley crew of characters, David found himself free of his uncle, and the owner of the schooner, Blue Witch, that was to be the starting point for his future career as a sea captain. A neatly plotted, well-paced story of sea life in the 1830's.

R Carlson, Natalie Savage. Sashes Red 1-4 and Blue; pictures by Rita Fava. Harper, 1956. 107p. \$2.50.

Collection of French-Canadian folk stories about a large and adventuresome family named LeBlanc. Although the stories are less complex than those in the author's The Talking Cat, children will enjoy the experiences of the LeBlanc family with the strange fairy-like creatures who play tricks on them and upset their lives. The stories will need to be read aloud to young children, who will especially enjoy the tales about Little Nichet, who is later called Jean-Baptiste when a younger baby comes to take his name of "nest egg."

M Carson, John F. Floorburns. Ariel, 7-9 1957. 220p. \$3.

Les Beach grew up in Shantytown and with a chip-on-the-shoulder attitude toward anyone who did not live there. He had difficulty accepting the fact that anyone could be interested in helping him, although several of his teachers and some of the townspeople did all that they could to give him a chance to over-

come his background. Jim Raines, the coach, was the most interested of all Les's teachers, for he saw in Les a potential basketball star who could lead the team to the state championship that Raines so passionately desired. In due time Les learned the value of team play and found a goal in life as he came to know and admire one of the town's leading doctors. Les is fairly well portrayed; the coach less so. Although the author obviously intends the coach to be a sympathetic character, the intensity of his desire to win overshadows his concern for the welfare of the team, with the result of making him a weak and not especially admirable character. There is a highly melodramatic episode with some local gangsters that does nothing to improve the story.

NR Chrystie, Frances Nicholson. The First 4-6 Book of Surprising Facts; pictures by Don Phillips. Watts, 1956. 64p. \$1.95.

A conglomeration of unusual facts relating principally to animals, people and phenomena of nature. The facts are stated briefly and with no explanations, and the results are occasionally misleading, and frequently incomprehensible without some additional knowledge of the subject. The illustrations are of no value to the book since they are intended strictly for humor and are neither accurate nor informative.

R Clark, Julia. Crab Village; with a coloured 4-6 frontispiece and line drawings in the text by Bernard Brett. Holt, 1955. 108p. \$2.50.

A delayed action fantasy which introduces some fascinating characters who live in a seacoast town—one of the Cinque Ports. The peculiar charm of the story is that the strange things which happen seem not unnatural for Crab Village and will fulfill an unconscious need of the young reader as they do for the characters in the story. Lucy, the little girl about whom the story turns, is perhaps the least well-defined character. The people she meets are especially clear and eccentric individuals: Miss Toby, Mr. Finn, Mr. Varnish, Smily Dog, Arabella, Mr. Spraggs and the rest. A good study in characterization. The illustrations are rather too adult to attract children, but fit the English fantasy of the book. The story is one that could be read to children with a great deal of enjoyment.

Ad Clewes, Dorothy. Mystery on Rainbow 5-7 Island; illus. by J. Marianne Moll. Coward-McCann, 1957. 256p. \$2.75.

The three Hadley children are once again on the trail of a mystery. This time they are vacationing on Sark Island, and the mystery involves a Cellini dagger that was brought to the island

during the German occupation and was stolen from a German officer by one of the islanders. In some ways the mystery and its solution are more believable than those of the earlier books about these same three children, in spite of a tendency to rely on coincidence and too frequent references to the earlier mysteries.

M Cobb, Alice. The Swimming Pool; illus. 4-6 by Joseph Escourido. Friendship Press, 1957. 127p. \$2.50.

When Preston Harlow, a Negro, was turned away from the new swimming pool at Metropolis, he and his best friend, Benjy Weinberg, decided to form a club to earn enough money for a swimming pool in their home suburb of Mayville. They enlisted the help of three other boys in their neighborhood—Murf Anderson, Joe Cotter, and Angelo Lubrano—and of the minister of a near-by church. In the course of their money raising activities, they instituted a neighborhood cleanup campaign and stirred up public interest to the point where the entire community got together to help with the swimming pool fund. A very purposeful book that has some valuable lessons in community action and intercultural understandings but that is too obvious in its teaching to have much appeal as a story.

M Collier, Edmund. The Story of Annie 5-7 Oakley; illus. by Leon Gregori. Grosset, 1956. 182p. (Signature Books) \$1.50.

Semi-fictionalized biography of Annie Oakley, concentrating on her early youth and dealing rather superficially with her experiences with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. She never comes alive as a real person, although there is some interest in her experiences as a rather precocious girl growing up in the backwoods of Ohio. Children to whom her name is not familiar will find little here to explain to them her claim to fame. The writing is adequate, although by no means outstanding.

R Cooke, Emogene. Fun-time Window K-5 Garden. Childrens Press, 1957. 32p. \$2.50.

Simple instructions for growing plants in water and in soil for window gardens. The plants include lentils, beets, carrots, parsnip—which are to be grown for the green tops only; Cress and Peppergrass grown on a sponge; sweet potato and avocado; vines of various kinds; and flowers such as Midget Zinnias, Dwarf Marigolds, Coleus, Alyssum and Wax Begonias. The directions are easy to follow and could be handled by youngsters at the three to five grade level for which the

book is intended. It is also suitable for use in the primary grades if the text is read aloud to the children.

NR Daly, Kathleen N. My Little Golden Book K-2 about Travel; pictures by Tibor Gergely. Simon & Schuster, 1956. 24p. (Little Golden Books) 25¢.

Brief text and numerous pictures set forth some of the ways by which man has traveled since earliest times. The text implies that all methods other than modern cars, planes and trains are characteristic of the past and, except for dog sleds, gives no indication that many are still to be found in use throughout the world today. The over-simplification of the text leads occasionally to an inaccuracy, as when the author speaks of "wingless" helicopters. The pages are too cluttered to be attractive or especially informative and the text is too difficult for independent reading below the third grade.

Ad Davis, Lavinia (Riker). Janey's Fortune. 7-9 Doubleday, 1957. 240p. \$2.75.

At first Janey McGovern rebelled at the idea of visiting a strange family on a western ranch while her mother and stepfather were in England. Even the thought that her beloved grandfather had arranged the trip just before he died could not quite reconcile her. Then a posthumous letter from her grandfather sent her off on a treasure hunt involving the mine he had once owned. Nothing came of the mine but Janie did find a treasure in human relations at the ranch. A fairly routine story that is somewhat redeemed by the author's adept handling of characters and descriptions.

NR Davis, Mary Octavia. Rickie; illus. by K-2 Dutz. Steck, 1955. 31p. \$1.

Rickie was a proud and greedy little rooster who lost all his friends because he always ate their food. Because he ate so much he became fatter and fatter until one day his beautiful tail popped off, feather by feather. On the advice of his mother he became more thoughtful of others and less greedy, whereupon his friends accepted him and his tail feathers grew back. An uninspired story written in a pedestrian style. The illustrations do little to add to the appeal of the book.

Ad De Leeuw, Adèle Louise. Donny; The Boy 3-5 Who Made a Home for Animals; with pictures by Meg Wohlberg. Little, 1957. 118p. \$3.

Donny had considerable difficulty in adjusting to his new school, mainly because he insisted that the other boys should play games his way—which was not always the way they were accustomed to doing. When they rebelled and refused to let him play at all, he turned to two stray animals, a cat

and a dog, for companionship. From these two he moved on to the idea of establishing a home for stray animals and through his new hobby gradually renewed the friendships that he had lost. A mildly pleasant, not especially outstanding story, but one that will have appeal for boys who, like Donny, are not accepted by their peers.

R Denison, Carol and Cummin, Jane.  
K-3 Where Any Young Cat Might Be;  
with pictures by Kurt Wiese. Dodd,  
1956. 57p. \$2.50.

A picture book, which could be read independently by advanced third grade readers, about a lost kitten and the search of the parent cats to find it. The illustrations are excellent pencil sketches and well adapted to the story. The text is written with humor and will be fun to read aloud, although it cannot be read independently below the third grade reading level.

M Denker, Nan Watson. The Bound Girl.  
7-9 Ariel Books, 1957. 183p. \$2.75.  
Félicie Charreau arrived at the small Puritan colony outside Boston, an orphan and completely on her own since her uncle had been forced to remain aboard ship to avoid arrest as a Huguenot. The ship's captain promised to care for Félicie and did so by indenturing her to Ephraim and Hannah Todd, who promptly changed her name to Felicity. Her gay and impetuous ways were as startling to the Todds as their sober ways were depressing to Felicity, but in due time each came to appreciate the other. When Felicity's uncle returned for her, she decided to remain in America rather than go back to her more luxurious life in France. The book suffers from uneven dialog that attempts, not always successfully, to reproduce the speech of the Puritans but that does nothing to give life to the characterizations, and from a lack of originality in the plot and situations. A similar situation but superior in quality of writing is to be found in Field's Calico Bush. (Macmillan, 1931).

M Denneborg, Heinrich Maria. Grisella the Donkey; tr. from the German by Emile Capouya; illus. by Horst Lemke. McKay, 1957. 138p. \$2.75.

Semi-fanciful tale with its setting the island of Elba. Young Tino, an orphan, is given the donkey Grisella, which is supposed to be an exceptional donkey because of its black left ear. The donkey's unusual quality is its ability to talk to Tino in the middle of the night, and during these nocturnal conversations it helps Tino make several serious decisions.

These range from how he can take advantage of a rich South American's offer to buy Grisella for one thousand dollars and still not be parted from his pet, to how he can get Grisella back home to Elba from Brazil when they both are stranded there. A mild little story with some pleasing aspects, but unexceptional in style of writing and plot.

SpC De Regniers, Beatrice (Schenk). A Child's  
3-6 Book of Dreams; drawings by Bill  
yrs. Sokol. Harcourt, 1957. 48p. \$2.25.

Three imaginative situations such as a young child might dream about or make up are described in matter-of-fact style. There is the flying dream, the spaghetti dream and the dream of seeds and flowers. The concept itself is an adult one, but young children may be amused at the extravagant nonsense that takes place in each dream. This is more a book for home use or for use with small groups than for individual reading or use with large storyhour groups.

NR Disney, Walt. Bongo; illus. by the Walt  
K-2 Disney Studio, adapted by Campbell Grant; based on the Walt Disney motion picture adaptation of the original story "Bongo" by Sinclair Lewis. Simon and Schuster, 1957. 24p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢.

Bongo, the performing bear in a circus, wearies of the lonely life of a star and runs away to the forest where he makes friends with the wild animals. A slight story whose major appeal will be to children who have seen Bongo in the movies.

R Dorian, Edith M. and Wilson, W. N.  
5-7 Hokahey!; American Indians Then and Now. Whittlesey House, 1957. 112p. \$3.25.

Following an introductory section on the origin of Indians in this country, and a brief look at the relations between Indians and white men, the authors discuss the Indian tribes by geographic regions—Eastern Woodlands, Southeast, Southwest, Basin-Plateau, California, Northwest and Great Plains. Each chapter presents the outstanding events in the development of the tribes of the area, with details of their culture traits—clothing, houses, food, equipment, customs, etc. The final chapter sums up the Indian problems of the present day. There are also a map showing the principal old tribal locations and a bibliography of additional readings. An interesting and useful addition to factual material on the American Indian.

NR Doss, Helen. A Brother the Size of Me;  
3-5 illus. by Robert Patterson. Little, 1957. 89p. \$2.75.



A children's book based on one episode from the author's adult book, The Family Nobody Wanted. The story centers around nine-year-old Donny, an adopted child, who longed for a brother his own age. His foster parents kept assuring him that they could not afford to adopt another child, but kept right on adopting younger children until, by the time Donny finally got his wish, there were twelve children in the family. In order to get the new brother to agree to adoption, Donny had to bribe him by giving him Rufus, Donny's dog and his dearest possession. The account is quite obviously based on a real happening, but it is not well developed as a story and raises too many unanswerable questions to be used as a true episode with younger children.

Ad Earle, Olive Lydia. Mice at Home and  
3-5 Afield. Morrow, 1957. 63p. \$2.25.  
An interestingly presented discussion of the kinds of mice that are found in houses, in fields and in the woods. The physical characteristics of each type are described, with their nesting and feeding habits, and something of their importance in the balance of nature. The book looks as though it were intended for young readers but has several weaknesses that will make it difficult, if not impossible, to use below the fourth grade. The text is written at a fourth grade reading level, but is suitable for reading aloud to younger children. There are numerous instances of words broken at the end of a line, and frequently these are the very words that would be most unfamiliar to young readers. No chapter or sectional headings have been used and yet the book is too long for young children to read all the way through at one sitting. The lack of divisional headings or of an index will limit the value of the book for reference use. The information is accurate and is clearly presented in the text; the illustrations are both attractive and informative.

NR Elmo, Horace. The Golden Picture  
2-5 Book of Questions and Answers;  
pictures by Tibor Gergely. Simon  
and Schuster, 1957. 56p. (A Fun-  
to-Learn Golden Book) \$1.

A conglomeration of unrelated questions about people, animals and places, with answers that are not always wholly accurate. The pages have a cluttered, unattractive look and the illustrations are more often confusing than informative.

Ad Fisher, Aileen Lucia. A Lantern in the  
4-6 Window; illus. by Harper Johnson.  
Nelson, 1957. 126p. \$2.75.

When young Peter first went to stay with Uncle Eb and Aunt Ellie on their Ohio River farm, he was more excited at the prospect of seeing the river boats than of being of help to his uncle. His one ambition was to get a job on a boat and someday to work up to the position of river pilot. Then he became aware of the unusual happenings around his uncle's farm, learned that the farm was a station on the Underground Railroad, and came in time to realize that helping his uncle carry on his anti-slavery activities was more important than being a river pilot. Although the story follows a fairly well-worn pattern, it is acceptable where there is need for more materials on this period.

Ad Fribourg, Marjorie G. Ching-Ting and  
1-3 the Ducks; with drawings by Artur  
Marokvia. Sterling, 1957. 42p. \$2.50.  
Ching-Ting, a small boy living on Formosa, dislikes his job of caring for the family pigs and longs for the day when the family will own a flock of ducks that he can tend. His father tells him that first he must prove himself capable of such a job, and this he does by refusing to go off with the other boys to play when he is supposed to be planting rice, and by saving a flock of ducks from a hawk. Some of the illustrations are quite pleasing, but young children will be confused by the ones in which some of the children are pictured with very black faces and other with white faces. The story is not outstanding but does give a feeling for the universality of children's desires.

R Fry, Rosalie Kingsmill. A Bell for Ringel-  
3-5 Blume. Dutton, 1957. 89p. \$2.50.  
A story of the Austrian Tirol and of an eight-year-old girl who comes there with her artist parents. Lucinda speaks no German, but she manages to get along fairly well with the Stoppel children in whose home she and her parents are staying. How she helps buy a bell for Ringelblume, the new calf, and keeps the calf from being sold makes a pleasing story with an almost fairy tale quality to the writing and illustrations.

R Fry, Rosalie Kingsmill. Deep in the  
K-3 Forest. Dodd, 1956. 95p. \$2.50.  
A plaintive story of a lonely little girl, daughter of a woodcutter, who finds an abandoned hut in the forest. She is allowed by her parents to go there every day and she coaxes a bear cub to make his home there. Katrina always sets out food for the birds, too, so they will be well fed during the winter months. The manner in which the animals repay her at Christmas time makes a charming child-animal fantasy. The illustrations fit the old-world puppet quality of the story.

NR Gág, Flavia. Tweeter of Prairie Dog

2-4 Town. Holt, 1957. 62p. \$2.25.  
Tweeter Digwell is a prairie dog who wants to be a guard in his town. He practices whistling for a long time and finally the day comes when his shrill whistle arouses the town to danger. A slight story, with little originality of concept, and one that is neither fantasy nor a realistic animal story.

R Garelick, May. Manhattan Island; woodcuts by John Ross and Clare Romano Ross. Crowell, 1957. 56p. \$2.75.  
An attempt, through the use of brief, rhythmic text and vigorous drawings, to give to readers a feeling for Manhattan—the kinds and multitudes of people who live there, the activities that go on there and some of the problems and pleasures of life in a large city. Although the city described in the book is definitely New York, the material is of general enough interest to give the book value for any unit on cities.

R George, Jean (Craighead). The Hole in the Tree. Dutton, 1957. 54p. \$2.50.

The history of a hole in an apple tree from its very beginning when a bark beetle bores a tiny hole in one limb to lay her eggs. The hole is enlarged by the downy woodpecker who is after the bark beetle larvae, and then grows successively larger as it is used as a nest by increasingly larger insects and birds, until finally it is large enough to attract a raccoon. An account built on scientific fact, but told with all the suspense and excitement of a story, and enhanced by the author's beautifully detailed drawings.

Ad Goetz, Delia. Tropical Rain Forests; 3-6 illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

A brief explanation of what tropical rain forests are, where they are located, and the kinds of animals, plants and people who inhabit them. Some of the material is similar to that of Selsam's See through the Jungle (Harper, 1957), but the organization is different and there is more here about rain forests in parts of the world other than South America. The material is interestingly written, although its use is hampered by the lack of chapter divisions or an index, and it is enhanced by Darling's numerous drawings.

NR Goodenow, Earle. Angelo Goes to K-1 Switzerland. Knopf, 1957. 31p. \$2.25.

Angelo, the young Italian boy with a beautiful singing voice (Angelo Goes to the Carnival),

is invited by Professor Bartoli to drive with him to Switzerland. The Professor has good intentions but is quite absent-minded and, at one point, drives off leaving Angelo at a small Swiss village. There Angelo meets Marie Louise (Cow Concert) and the two entertain themselves with singing and cow-bell concerts until the Professor remembers Angelo and returns. A slight, rather far-fetched story with cartoonish illustrations.

Ad Goodspeed, J. M. Let's Go to a Dairy; 2-4 illus. by Raymond Abel. Putnam, 1957. 48p. \$1.95.

A fairly detailed explanation of the processes involved in the handling of milk and milk products from dairy farm through a large commercial dairy. As usual with these books, children are pictured in the illustrations but the text is a straight-forward, factual presentation. The writing tends to be unnecessarily slangy, and the text is much more difficult (4th grade reading level) than the primer size type would indicate. The information given is useful and the book will have value for classes studying community agencies.

M Gould, Jean. Young Mariner Melville; 7-9 illus. by Donald McKay. Dodd, 1956. 280p. \$3.

A moderately readable, although not especially outstanding, semi-fictionalized biography of Herman Melville, with an emphasis on his life as a sailor. The author quotes freely, but gives no sources for any of her quotations, nor for any of the other information in her book. In addition to legitimate quotations that are obviously taken from Melville's own writings, the text is replete with words that have been enclosed in quotation marks for no obvious reason, the marks serving only to impede the flow of the writing. There are a few minor errors in the text—the description of ambergris as coming from a wound in the side of a whale and being yellow in color; and the references to whales as "fish." On the whole, however, the story follows the main events of Melville's life.

NR Govan, Christine (Noble) and West, Emmy. 4-6 The Mystery of the Shuttered Hotel; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Sterling, 1956. 188p. \$2.50.

Another story of the five southern children who spend their spare time solving local mysteries. This time they start out after Christmas trees, discover a gang of thieves who are using a summer hotel as a hide-out, and, of course, capture the thieves—with a minimum of adult help. As always the children come through the harrowing experience with no ill effects, and ride home

through the snow lustily singing a well-known (to everyone but the children, who sing the wrong words) Christmas carol. As in the earlier books, coincidence and improbability are the distinguishing characteristics of the story.

Ad Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Fisher-  
1-3 man; pictures by Lucy and John  
Hawkinson. Childrens Press,  
1957. 32p. \$2.

Sam and Sally visit the wharves to see the various kinds of fishing boats and to learn of the different ways fish are caught by commercial fishermen. The text is written at a beginning second grade reading level. The illustrations are moderately informative but not especially attractive.

SpC Gregor, Arthur Stephen. 1 2 3 4 5;  
1-5 photographs by Robert Doisneau.  
Lippincott, 1956. 26p. \$2.50.

Excellent black and white photographs coupled with a brief rhymed text that is supposed to help develop number concepts. Not all of the objects pictured will have meaning for children at the counting-book age and the text is quite uneven in quality. The primary value of the book will be for art classes as an example of the effects that can be obtained with photography.

M Griffis, Faye Campbell. Lantern in the  
4-6 Valley; with pictures by Vera Bock.  
Macmillan, 1956. 136p. \$2.50.

A fictionalized description of farm life in contemporary Japan. As indicated in the story, farming rice paddies is still a difficult and often unrewarding task. When a fierce storm destroys the rice, the family in the story is faced with the decision of starving or of breaking some of the time-old family traditions, a decision that is especially difficult for the mother. Much interesting material is presented but the author uses a condescending tone and very slow plot development. The story lacks real action which would appeal to general interest.

M Halacy, D. S. High Challenge. Macmil-  
7-9 lan, 1957. 196p. \$2.75.

Another story of gliding, this one involving eighteen-year-old Steve West whose application for a commercial pilot's license is refused because of his intermittent attacks of vertigo. Steve meets Bill Nye who interests him in the possibilities of gliders and he tries them in the hope of proving that he is physically competent to fly. Again the vertigo proves too much, but not before the author

has had a chance to expound at length on the future prospects of gliding. In the end Steve becomes reconciled to doing the scientific work that is an important part of glider research. An interesting subject weakened by a trite plot and typed characterizations.

M Hall, Marjory. Cathy and Her Castle. Funk  
7-9 & Wagnalls, 1957. 213p. \$2.95.

Eighteen-year-old Cathy James was bored with life. Her father's job as a teacher in a small private school in New York City did not pay enough for the family to afford exciting vacations, and Cathy had made few friends at school to give her interests outside herself. Then Mr. James decided to buy the "castle"—an old mansion on the Hudson—and to start a junior college for girls. Cathy, in the dual role of student and daughter of the headmaster, found her life as complex now as it had been dull before, and she was not always certain that she welcomed the change. However, the new life had its compensations in new friendships, a romance with Brad Kingsley, a boy she had known in high school, and even a slight mystery involving two of the students. A light novel for teen-age girls that has little substance to either the plot or characterizations.

NR Hall, Marjory. Mirror, Mirror. West-  
7-9 minster, 1956. 188p. \$2.75.

A poorly written love story with negative, or at least questionable values on the part of all the characters, and especially the heroine. Kimberly Mason suffers from an inferiority complex brought on by her lack of beauty—a lack that results primarily from excess weight and unbecoming clothes and hair-do. She decides to get a job rather than face the social competition of college and is hired as a summer replacement in the office of the Lakeland China Company. There she meets several girls who become interested in helping solve her physical problems, and two young men who help to bolster her ego. Kim is completely self-centered and at the same time totally unable to face her own company for more than five minutes at a time. She has no initiative, but attempts always to pattern herself on the person who happens momentarily to have caught her interest. At the end of the story, she is more attractive physically, but has made no growth toward social or emotional maturity. A shallow, soap opera type story with nothing of substance to offer readers.

Ad Hall, Rosalys Haskell. Green as Spring;  
7-9 decorations by Kurt Werth. Longmans,  
1957. 214p. \$3.

Frances Gay is in the throes of teen-age growing pains. She is not sure of herself around boys, none, that is, except Michael Northerland whom

she has known all her life. Along with the other girls in her school, she suffers from an inferiority complex brought on by the kind of competition offered by Katherine "Killer" Kane, and she frequently finds herself at odds with her parents, who are singularly understanding of all her problems. The story takes her through one spring and summer of growing up and provides the kind of light-hearted reading fare that some teenage girls enjoy. There is little depth to the plot or characterizations.

NR Hallowell, Priscilla C. Dinah and Virginia; illus. by Paul Lantz. Viking, 1956. 127p. \$2.50.

Virginia, a talking horse, arrived at the Webster farm as a special gift for Dinah. Although Dinah knew little about riding, Virginia took over her education and soon Dinah was riding well enough that when Virginia heard there was to be a horse show, she immediately started to get Dinah ready to enter it. The story begins and ends slowly and Virginia quickly becomes completely over-powering for the reader. The description of the race is good, but the same material has been dealt with successfully in other stoies that are better written. The illustrations are good but do not make up for the weakness of the story.

Ad Hall-Quest, Olga (Wilbourne). 5-7 Powhatan and Captain Smith. Ariel Books, 1957. 158p. \$2.75.

The story of the early days of Jamestown told primarily through the struggle between John Smith and Powhatan—the one to save the colony, the other to end it. The writing is interesting enough to give the book appeal where additional materials on Jamestown are needed and the fairly simple style makes it one that could be used as remedial material.

Ad Harry, Robert Reese. Island Boy; A Story of Ancient Hawaii; illus. by Reisie Lonette. Lothrop, 1956. 209p. \$3.

An adventure story set in ancient Hawaii, in which a young boy, only survivor of an enemy attack, is taken to another island by a friendly trader. After many adventures it is discovered that the boy is related to the village chief and is adopted by him. The action of the story is fast and well-paced and the explanatory material that is interspersed does not detract from the interest of the plot. It is unfortunate that the author has used short, staccato sentences rather than a free flowing style, for it makes the reading uneven and

stilted. A glossary of terms is included as an appendix and must be used along with the text, as several Hawaiian words are used without explanation. The glossary would serve a better purpose had it been placed at the beginning of the book since few children will discover its existence until they have finished the story.

NR Hart, Jeanne McGahey. Scareboy; illus. 1-3 by Gerhardt Hurt. Parnassus, 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

Farmer Geech builds as gruesome a scarecrow as he can devise as a protection for his corn field. The crows are not impressed. Then one day a strong wind blows the figure into a tree where it provides a refuge for the crows by frightening Farmer Geech's three sons. The story has some humor but its effects are lost in the garishly colored, cartoon-like illustrations.

Ad Hastings, Evelyn Belmont. Postmen; illus. 1-3 by Robert Bartram. Melmont, 1957. 28p. \$1.75.

A simply written introduction to the work of postmen. In brief text and full-page illustrations the work of postmen on their city routes, in the post office, handling parcel post and special delivery mail, and on the rural routes is discussed. The text is written at a beginning third grade level but could be used at lower grades where some preliminary vocabulary on technical terms has been done.

R Haupt, Enid A., ed. The Seventeen Party Book; decorations by Charmatz. Lippincott, 1956. 207p. \$2.75.

Twenty-nine parties created by Seventeen Magazine, including Prom ideas, money-raising projects, and picnics as well as parties. Some of the big affairs require so much more originality and careful planning than is indicated here that only the basic idea will be useful; a few of the parties sound dull, at least on paper. In most cases, however, the plans promise success, and are flexible enough to allow for individual circumstances. Menus and recipes are given which are designed for a fairly experienced cook, although even a beginner could manage them with a little help from her mother. The book should be useful to club groups and adults working with teen-agers as well as for library collections, although it suffers from a slightly misguided faith in the All-American Girl, with her crowd of four couples, a liberal allowance, indulgent parents and a sparkling personality. However, deficiencies in these possessions can be adjusted to in most of the party plans.

Ad Havighurst, Marion Margaret (Boyd). 7-9 Strange Island. World, 1957. 219p.

\$2.75.

A story of Burr's conspiracy as seen by Faith Arnold, young governess to the Blennerhassett boys at their island home, Île de Beau Pré, near Marietta, Ohio. Faith came to live with the Blennerhassetts at the time when they were in the midst of planning to move to Louisiana Territory where Burr had purchased a large tract of land to be used as his headquarters. At first Faith was won over to Burr's plan, but she came in time to realize that he was merely using the Blennerhassetts for his own ends, and that they would get nothing but ruin from his schemes. During her stay with the Blennerhassetts, Faith had come to know and love young Henry Gates of Belpre, so she was not too unhappy at not being allowed to go to Louisiana with Mrs. Blennerhassett and the boys. The book is more a love story with a period setting than a piece of historical fiction.

NR Headley, Elizabeth Cavanna. Toujours 7-9 Diane. Macrae, 1957. 204p. \$2.75. Diane, now a junior in high school, hesitates to leave her friends (especially Jim and Toby) in order to accompany her parents to Europe for the summer. Life perks up, however, when she finds a British beau as soon as she steps aboard ship. From then on, Europe is a sight-seeing trip from boyfriend to boyfriend, with British Peter standing by whenever things get too dull. Diane is a selfish miss who contributes very little to the reader's respect for either American tourists abroad or the American teenager's good sense. Diane's mishaps, usually due to her own poor judgment, have none of the joyous quality of the buoyant Our Hearts Were Young and Gay. Rather, Diane is a pettishly irritating young girl whose principal pleasures are acquiring a cashmere sweater and being allowed to drive a European sports car. The junior high school reader deserves better light fare than is offered in this book.

Ad Hefflefinger, Jane and Hoffman, Elaine. 1-3 Firemen; illus. by Robert Bartram. Melmont, 1957. 31p. \$1.75.

The training and work of firemen presented in simple text and full-page drawings. With some previous help on the technical words, children reading at a second grade level should be able to handle the text.

R Huggins, Alice Margaret; Robinson, 7-9 Hugh Laughlin, and Ballou, Earle Hoit. Wan-Fu; Ten Thousand Happinesses; decorations by Roberta Moynihan. Longmans, 1957.

186p. \$2.75.

One-Leg, as she was generally known, had lived most of her life as a beggar on the Tientsin Highway near Peking. With her father, Blind Yang, she went each day to the busy highway or railway station to beg from wealthy travelers. Often she looked enviously at the school girls she saw on the trains, but she never thought to be like them. Her hard life became even more difficult after her mother died. Then One-Leg's father was struck and killed on the highway, One-Leg herself suffered a head injury and, during the resulting hospitalization, her life completely changed. A series of operations repaired her leg to the point where she could walk again, and she was given an opportunity to attend the nearby mission school. Because her old name no longer fit, her friends renamed her Wan-Fu, meaning Ten Thousand Happinesses. In spite of its story book ending, the book gives a rather good picture of life in modern China, although it does not have the vigor and maturity of Lewis's To Beat a Tiger (Winston, 1956).

NR Hunt, Bob. Coppertop; illus. by Jeanne 3-5 Manget. Coward-McCann, 1957. 48p. \$2.

Rather insipid story of a small boy, called Coppertop because of his red hair, who lives with his prospector uncle in the Arizona desert. The two are visited by pack rats, much to the uncle's disgust and the boy's delight. The uncle's anger turns to joy, however, when the pack rats lead them to gold. The writing is unexceptional and the information about pack rats inaccurate—they do not carry off an object and then bring back something from their nests in exchange, nor are they large enough to move heavy pieces of firewood from a stack to the middle of the floor.

M Jackson, Caary Paul and O. B. Basketball 6-8 Clown; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Whittlesey House, 1956. 160p. \$2.75.

Fred Lyon, a senior and captain of the basketball team, was certain there was nothing in the world more important than basketball, and he could not rest until he had persuaded Elroy Conklin, a 6'5" freshman, to try out for the team. Elroy proved a good player, but his clowning irritated Fred and his competition for the pivot position angered Tek Jennings, a senior who had played that position up to the time of Elroy's arrival. Fred almost ruined the team and his friendship with Elroy by his constant carping and preaching, and the coach weakly admitted his own inability to do anything to solve the problem of Elroy's clowning or his feud with Tek. In the end Elroy is allowed to have his own way and the team wins the championship. There are some very good game descriptions, but the authors'

thesis that team play is necessary for championship ball is contradicted by the events of the story, since Elroy remains the star player throughout, and it is never very clear just what they are trying to say about the relationships among Tek, Elroy and Fred.

- R Jacobson, Helen and Mischel, Florence.  
4-6 The First Book of Letter Writing;  
pictures by László Roth. Watts,  
1957. 63p. \$1.95.

Why we write letters, kinds of letters, sample letters of each kind, writing implements, paper, correct form for various types of letters are all treated briefly but clearly. The book will probably have its primary use in the classroom but will satisfy wherever there is need for this kind of material.

- Ad James, Harry Clebourne. A Day with  
2-4 Honau, A Hopi Indian Boy; illus.  
by Don Perceval. Melmont, 1957.  
31p. \$2.

In this companion volume to A Day with Poli, the author tells of the activities of Poli's brother, Honau, as he helps his father in the corn field and kills a rabbit with his throwing stick. The text is written at an upper third grade reading level and would need to be read aloud to younger children.

- NR Johnson, E. Harper. Kenny. Holt,  
5-7 1957. 190p. \$3.

Kenny is a young American Negro boy who goes with his parents to Africa where his father is employed as a construction engineer. There Kenny makes friends with Akeka, a native boy, and with Howard Gordon, a white boy. The three go off into the jungle alone and have encounters with wild animals and pygmies. Any appeal the setting might have had is lost in the wholly inept, frequently ungrammatical writing. Conversations are stilted and the characters never come alive.

- R Jones, Adrienne. Where Eagles Fly.  
7-9 Putnam, 1957. 256p. \$2.95.

After the death of his father, Nate McAllister lived with his Uncle Harold, a well meaning man but totally lacking in any understanding of Nate. The boy was bitterly unhappy and spent most of his time day-dreaming of running away—his dreams centering mostly around the climbing of Mt. Humphries, a trip he and his father had once planned together. Because of his unhappiness, Nate's school work suffered and as his grades went down his uncle's severity strengthened and Nate's rebellion increased. The final flare-up, in which Nate attempted the mountain climb and

came to an acceptance of his life with his uncle, makes exciting reading as an adventure story and has considerable to offer young readers in that Nate learns to live with life as it is rather than changing everything to suit his own wishes.

- R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Bruce Carries  
5-7 the Flag; They Came from Scotland.  
Follett, 1957. 198p. \$2.40.

New edition of a book first published in 1944 by Houghton Mifflin under the title, They Came from Scotland. The story tells of the MacGregor family who came to this country from Scotland in 1838 and of their adjustment to life on the American frontier.

- R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Michael's Victory;  
5-8 They Came from Ireland. Follett,  
1957. 192p. \$2.40.

New edition of a title first published in 1946 by Houghton Mifflin. The story traces the affairs of an Irish family brought to the United States to work on one of the early railroad lines in the East and gives a picture not only of the family's adjustment to a new way of life but also of the conflict between the builders of the railroad and the canal boat men.

- R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Pierre's Lucky  
6-8 Pouch; They Came from France;  
illus. by Lois Lenski. Follett, 1957.  
246p. \$2.40.

Re-issue of a book originally published by Houghton in 1943 under the title, They Came from France. The story follows the adventures of the Remy family in New Orleans in 1743 as they make a new life for themselves and contribute to the development of the New World.

- R Justus, May. Peddler's Pack; illus. by  
2-5 Jean Tamburine. Holt, 1957. 95p.  
\$2.75.

A collection of nonsense rhymes, riddles, tongue-twisters, counting-out rhymes, play-party games, singing games, signs and predictions from the Southern Mountains. Music is included with five of the verses, and directions are given for all of the games. Variations on some of the rhymes and games are available in other collections, but much of the material here is not readily found elsewhere.

- Ad Kahl, Virginia. The Habits of Rabbits.  
K-1 Scribner, 1957. 32p. \$2.50.

More hilarious nonsense about the Duchess and her family. This time Gunhilde wants a pet and is advised by the cook to get a "rabbit or two." Although the king assures her there is no such thing as a rabbit or two, he gives her a pair, and the fun starts. When the rabbits begin to over-

flow the castle, the king suggests as a solution that they be used to solve the surplus cabbage and carrots problem that plagues the country, but he warns that they have not heard the last of those rabbits. In spite of the adult overtones to the humor, there is enough child appeal to both the text and illustrations to please youngsters who have liked the other Duchess books.

R Kamm, Josephine. Gertrude Bell: Daughter of the Desert. Vanguard, 1957. 191p. \$3.

A vigorous penetrating study of Gertrude Bell, an Englishwoman of the late eighteenth-early nineteenth century, who spent a major portion of her life in Arab countries and whose friendship with the Arabs served to forward the British cause during and after World War I. The account draws largely on Miss Bell's own letters and other writings and succeeds in creating a vivid picture of this strange woman who was, in her own way, something of a feminine counterpart of Lawrence of Arabia.

Ad Kawaguchi, Sanae. Taro's Festival Day. Little, 1957. 41p. \$2.50.  
Taro and his friend Jiro plan for and participate in the Japanese Children's Day Festival. A slight story illustrated with colorful drawings depicting traditional Japanese costumes and houses. Neither the text nor the illustrations comes up to the quality of Taro Yashima's books about Japan.

NR Keith, Frederick W. Danger in the Everglades; illus. by Kurt Werth. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 223p. \$2.75.

When his parents were reported missing after a hurricane struck southern Florida where they had gone to fish and collect flowers, Steve Hubbard persuaded his aunt to let him go hunting for them in the electric elephant that his father had built. The trip from Daytona Beach to Shark River became even more of an adventure when Steve helped two children—Dave and Kitty Graham—to escape from an orphanage and took them along with him. On the way they encountered a tribe of Seminole Indians, were almost caught in a prairie fire and finally found and rescued the Hubbards just as they were about to drown in a flood. The elephant vehicle, patterned on a real one, gives an unusual touch to the story, but the writing is quite stiff and wooden and the characters never really come alive.

Ad Kettelkamp, Larry. Spooky Magic.

3-5 Morrow, 1955. 64p. \$2.

Very clear explanations and directions for magic tricks which include: invisible flea, clinging glasses, ghost writing, the wandering ring, magnetic wand, spirit in the bottle, disappearing water, rising card table, mysterious card, the floating person, and others. The suggested pattern to accompany the tricks is stilted, but the diagrams and directions are quite clear and easy to follow. Fourth graders could adequately read the text and prepare the necessary materials.

NR King, Robin. Hundl Is a Dog. Dutton, K-2 1956. 61p. \$2.25.

Hundl is a rescue dog in the Swiss Alps who gets lost while trying to find a mountain climber. He is then demoted to pulling the milk cart. His playmate, Bubchen, decides to prove Hundl can find people, so he hides on the mountain and is duly found. The caricature illustrations express a kind of ridicule that is undesirable in books about other countries.

R Kingman, Lee. The Village Band Mystery; 3-5 illus. by Eric Blegvad. Doubleday, 1956. 256p. \$2.75.

A warmly sympathetic story of a Boston girl transported from a girls' school to a small village on the Massachusetts coast. The residents of the village are largely of Finnish extraction and their regard for family life is reflected by the Sironens who live next door to the little girl, whose name is Garnet. Her struggle to be accepted and to live with an aunt who is uncomfortable with little girls is told with humor and insight. As the well-paced story progresses, Garnet matures and, through helping solve the mystery of some missing band instruments, finally "belongs" to the village. The characterizations are good and will be enjoyed by both girls and boys.

NR Kingsbury, Ruth Foote. Lookout Tower; 7-9 illus. by Ernest Norling. Caxton, 1957. 254p. \$3.50.

Because of a manpower shortage, eighteen-year-old Margaret Adams is given a summer job as guard at a fire tower in the Snoqualmie National Forest. She takes her fourteen-year-old brother Dick along for company and protection. Margaret and Dick are not only inexperienced, but are also unbelievably irresponsible, with no sense of even the basic principles of conservation, no knowledge of laws regarding the protection of animals in a national forest, and very little common sense. The situations are all obvious ones—jealous boyfriend, handsome young ranger, etc.—and the author's almost incredibly poor grammar does nothing to enhance the weak plot and characterizations.



Ad Kyle, Elisabeth. The Seven Sapphires;  
5-7 illus. by Kathleen Voute. Nelson,  
1957. 224p. \$2.75.

Nine-year-old Walter Macfadyen and his sister Charlotte, visiting in London for the first time, become involved in a mystery surrounding some sapphires that were lost in a jewelry store fire. Bob Middleton, the American boy with whose family Walter and Charlotte are visiting, helps to solve the mystery in a chase that begins at Culpepper Square and ends at the London docks. There is considerable excitement to the story and the plot is logically developed, although it borders perilously on the melodramatic at times. The conversations, especially among the adults, are much more stilted than is usual for this author, and the characters are less fully developed than those in some of her earlier books.

NR Lambert, Janet. Fly Away, Cinda.  
7-9 Dutton, 1956. 187p. \$2.75.

The story of a teen-ager and her family. As Cinda Hollister joins in the everyday activities of high school and family life, she is constantly trying to solve the problems of others, usually causing more confusion than existed originally. She has no serious problems herself except this mania for meddling in other people's lives. The entire Hollister family are too congenial to be believable. The social problems of the young people are solved superficially and the coy attitude of the children toward Mr. and Mrs. Hollister is not recommended to replace filial respect for one's parents. The characters lack depth and wholesomeness.

R Land, Myrick and Barbara. Jungle Oil;  
5-7 The Search for Venezuela's Hidden  
Treasure; maps and drawings by  
Marian Manfredi. Coward-McCann,  
1957. 96p. (Challenge Books).  
\$1.95.

Beginning with a detailed description of the physical geography of Venezuela, and the difficulties it presents to life and travel there, the authors then trace the history of man's discovery and use of its natural resources from the days when its oil production could be counted by the hundreds of barrels to the present day production of millions of barrels. There is also a section on the mining of high grade iron ore and on the search now under way for other equally valuable mineral resources. The book will be primarily useful for social studies classes studying some of the present day problems in finding and developing natural resources.

R Lewiton, Mina. Rachel and Herman; pic-  
4-6 tures by Howard Simon. Watts, 1957.  
202p. \$2.75.

A sequel to Rachel, this book continues the story of Mr. Lessing, the bookseller, and his family after they move from Downtown to Uptown in New York City. Although Rachel's brother Herman has his share of fun and adventure, the story is still primarily Rachel's, and she finds her way in the strange neighborhood and school toward friendship and understanding. The author has a keen ability to reproduce family conversation with warmth and vitality. Poppa, Momma, Uncle Boris and the school friends are distinct personalities, contributing to the distinguished quality of this family story.

M Longstreth, Joseph and Ludlow, John.  
5-7 48 Plus 1; illus. by William S. Harvey.  
Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 176p. \$2.50.

A brief history of the early beginnings of each of the 48 states, with an emphasis on the origin of the state's name and an explanation of its nickname. The final chapter deals with Washington, D.C. The information is too superficial to have much reference value but may be of use as a slightly different approach to state history. Some of the oversimplifications are misleading.

NR Longstreth, Joseph. Little Big-Feather;  
K-1 pictures by Helen Borten. Abelard-  
Schuman, 1956. 42p. \$2.50.

Little Feather, a comic book style Indian boy, throws a temper tantrum because he cannot have a big feather to wear in his hair. He tries to prove he deserves one by climbing a tall tree and by swimming the river, but each time he has to be rescued and is scolded. Then he and the other children start a fire that almost burns the village down, and Little Feather is praised because he has presence of mind enough to beat the village drum to call for help. He even wins his big feather. Both the story and the illustrations are more suited to comic books than to picture books.

Ad Marriott, Alice. Sequoyah: Leader of the  
6-8 Cherokees; illus. by Bob Riger.  
Random House, 1956. 182p. (Land-  
mark Books) \$1.50.

A quite readable, semi-fictionalized biography of Sequoyah, taking him from early childhood to his death in Mexico where he had gone to try to trace the origins of the Cherokee language. This is neither as full nor as well-rounded a biography as the Coblenz Sequoya (Longmans, 1946) but will be useful for less mature readers. Although the author indicates at one point that very little is actually known of Sequoyah's life, she does not clearly state what is fact and what is



fiction in the book, nor are any sources listed.

Ad Marshall, Catherine. Julie's Heritage; 7-9 decorations by E. Harper Johnson. Longmans, 1957. 231p. \$3.

It was when Julie Brownell entered high school that she became aware for the first time of the problems of discrimination that she would have to face as a Negro. In grade school her two best friends had been white girls, but from the first day of high school they made it clear that they no longer would meet her on a basis of social equality. Julie's problems of adjustment as she learned to meet discrimination without bitterness and to accept her responsibility to her race are presented realistically and with considerable insight. The writing is not outstanding and the characters are frequently manipulated to make a point, but on the whole this is acceptable as a problem novel.

NR Martin, Nancy. Young Farmers in 7-10 Scotland; illus. by Isobel Mount. St. Martin's, 1957. 162p. \$1.75.

A story of a Scottish boy's struggle to decide whether he should try to build up a derelict hill farm or work on his father's already well-equipped farm. Three members of the Young Farmers Group whom Sandy has met in England while in service, tour Scotland with him. They become convinced that he is right in choosing the derelict hill farm after they visit several types of farms and agricultural agencies. The story has little plot and is a fictionalized attempt to discuss various types of farming in Scotland. The characterizations are poor, lacking life and depth.

SpR Mayne, William. A Swarm in May; 6-8 illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Bobbs-Merrill, 1957. 199p. \$3.

A delightful story set in a choir school based on that of Canterbury Cathedral. Ten-year-old John Owen, as the youngest singing boy in the school, was, by tradition, also the Bee-keeper of the school, although all that was left of his role was one appearance in church to present a candle to the Bishop and assure him that good wax was provided for the making of the church candles. At first John thought to persuade a smaller, but older boy to take on the role since he did not want to sing the solo part that was required. However, his own conscience, plus the weight of disapproval he felt from his own classmates and the faculty caused him to change his mind. Then he began to explore the history behind this service,

found the secret place where the bees had once been kept and was able to present to the Bishop a candle made from the Cathedral's own wax. The characters of boys and adults alike are drawn with a deft touch, and not a little humor. The setting, of the tremendous cathedral, is as well drawn as any of the characters and it, plus the interweaving of the church music into the story, makes this a book that will be best appreciated by the exceptional reader, for whom it will prove a modern classic.

Ad Merrett, John. Famous Voyages in Small 7-9 Boats; illus. by Paul Berkow. Criterion Books, 1957. 188p. \$3.

Re-telling of six ocean voyages in small boats, all of which have been more fully described in full-length adult books. Three of the voyages were made by choice and three were unintentional. Included are: Slocum's voyage around the world; Bligh's voyage across the Pacific after being put off the Bounty; the voyage of the Travessa's crew across the Indian Ocean following the sinking of their ship; the voyage of the Kon-Tiki; the voyage of the Endeavor's crew in the Antarctic; and Dr. Bombard's voyage across the Atlantic. The writing is just average but could lead the reader on to the more detailed accounts, all of which are listed in a bibliography at the end of the book.

Ad Miers, Earl Schenck. Ball of Fire; illus. 6-8 by Paul Galdone. World, 1956. 220p. \$2.50.

Turkey Saunders and his friends (Monkey Shines) have now progressed from Little League to Pony League baseball, but they are still having their troubles. For Turkey the main problem is his lack of self-confidence; a lack that keeps him from becoming as good a pitcher as he should be. As usual in the stories by this author there is more to the book than just baseball—there are community activities and personal relationships among the boys—although baseball is the main focus of the book. There is less humor and somewhat more preachiness than in Monkey Shines, but sports story fans will enjoy the game descriptions.

Ad Miers, Earl Schenck. Mark Twain on the 6-8 Mississippi; Illus. by Robert Frankenberg. World, 1957. 246p. \$3.

A fictionalized biography of Mark Twain taking him from early boyhood in Hannibal to the earning of his license as a pilot on the Mississippi River. The author has used Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn for some of the fictionalized elements of his book, and has drawn on his own imagination for others. A section at the end explains which part of each chapter is fact and

which is fiction. In spite of a tendency toward sententiousness, the writing is well-paced and the book makes an adequate addition to the materials about Clemens.

M Moore, Patrick. The Earth, Our Home; 7-9 illus. by Patricia Cullen. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 143p. \$2.50.

An account of the earth's history from theories regarding its beginning to a description of its present state of being. The first ten chapters discuss the history of the earth's development; the last four are devoted to: Inside the Earth, The Earth's Blanket of Air, The Earth as a World and Into the Future. The writing is adequate, although the frequent criticisms of the "clumsy" terminology of paleontology seem wholly unnecessary and unreasonable. The information is generally accurate, but the book adds little that is new to children's books on this subject.

R Morenus, Richard. Frozen Trails; 7-10 illus. by Frank Kramer. Dodd, 1956. 235p. \$3.

Randy Freeman and his parents take over a trading post in the Canadian bush after living all their lives in a small Indiana town. With the help of Scotty, the experienced bushman with a Scottish burr and a great store of Scottish proverbs, the family learn the ways of the wild. Randy is given four husky puppies to train as a team. His adventures in the frozen country with his Indian friend as he fulfills his responsibilities as a trader's son and catches a claim jumper are told with clarity and understanding. A great deal of information is included but the story is so written that this does not interfere with the plot, but rather adds to its interest. The Scottish burr of Scotty may be a bit difficult to read at first, but the reader soon finds that it becomes easy to handle. Full of excitement and outdoor lore, this is a story which boys should enjoy.

R Musgrave, Florence. Robert E; illus. 5-6 Mary Stevens. Hastings House, 1957. 191p. \$2.75.

Robert E had lived all his life with his grandparents on their southern mountain farm, while his mother worked in Cleveland. He saw no reason to change, even after his grandmother's death, but his mother insisted that he and his grandfather should move North to live with her. The adjustment was difficult for both the man and the boy, as Robert E learned that fighting is not always the best solution to an argument, and his grandfather learned to cope with the modern conveniences

of the new house and to accept the idea of women drivers. An excellent family story, told with a depth of characterization that gives the reader a warm understanding of Robert E, his mother and his grandfather.

M Obermeyer, Marion Barrett. The Listening Post; decorations by Alan Moyler. Longmans, 1957. 196p. \$3.

In a style that is more suited to the documentary than to fiction, the author traces the development of the radio in this country as it affects the lives of a fairly typical American family. Mr. Burnett, a telegraph operator, is intensely interested in all new inventions, but it is especially interested in his new "wireless." When it becomes evident that Dan Burnett shares his father's interest, means are found for sending him to the University of Wisconsin where Professor Terry is pioneering in experimental work with the wireless. After four years of college, with one year out to serve in France during World War I, Dan returns home to set up the town's first radio broadcasting station. There may be some appeal for readers who are interested in the history of the development of radio, but the story has little to offer by way of plot or characterization.

Ad Olson, Gene. The Tall One; A Basketball Story. Dodd, 1956. 211p. \$2.75.  
The exciting story of a high school senior, Miles Talbert, who is 7' 1/2" tall and of the problems and successes which result when he joins the Greenwood basketball team. Greenwood had little chance for a successful basketball season because the team players were all of short stature and inexperienced. Although Miles had no actual playing experience he had practiced shooting baskets for years, and Jim Gillis, the coach, built his team strategy around the tall one. The problems which resulted from the ribbing of the crowds toward Miles because he was so tall and his final victory over self-consciousness; the prejudice of certain people in the area toward the one Negro player on the team; and the problems faced by the coach because the townspeople wanted a winning team are all dealt with realistically and with sympathetic understanding. The state championship tournament vibrates with color and excitement. Although the book starts slowly, with a great deal of emphasis put upon the coach's concern because of his poor team and the reaction he knows will come from the townspeople, it gives sufficient information about specific plays and strategy used to have appeal for any boy interested in and familiar with the playing of the game.

NR Ormsby, Virginia H. It's Saturday! Lip-K-2 pincott, 1956. 32p. \$2.  
Unevenly rhymed text tells of the activities of

children on Saturday morning. They have breakfast, watch T-V, do their chores, play out doors, etc. The style and tone seem most suited to pre-school children, but Saturday as a free day will have little meaning for them. The text is written at a second grade reading level and might be used as supplementary reading material, although many children will object to the author's talking down to them.

Ad Payne, Joan Balfour. Ambrose. Hasting House, 1956. 48p. \$2.75.

A personified story of a small, very fat, orange mop dog who gets lost from his near-sighted, over-affectionate, old mistress one day in the park. He is so fat he can hardly walk and has been so protected that he is completely bewildered by the world. Being left in the park is a great catastrophe. He is used in a Punch and Judy Show, hitches a ride on a milk wagon pulled by a friendly horse, is adopted by an organ grinder and his monkey, is dined by a cat in a warehouse, and escapes the clutches of a dog catcher when he runs aboard a ferry from which he falls into the river, only to be pulled out by a friendly family and accepted as their own. As Ambrose goes rather rapidly from one adventure to another, he loses weight equally rapidly and each time learns more about adjusting to life as he meets it. By the time he is at last returned to his mistress, he is so changed she does not recognize him. A book that will probably appeal to children who are striving to gain a sense of independence from over-protective parents. The illustrations, done in black, rust, and gray are imaginative, indicating mood as well as action.

NR Pine, Tillie S. The Indians Knew; pictures by Ezra Jack Keats. Whittlesey House, 1957. 32p. \$2.

An unsuccessful attempt to create in young readers a respect for the Indians of early times by relating some of the things they knew and did that are similar to things we know and do today. The Indians knew that wood could be bent to make things spring through the air (bow and arrow)—we use the same principle in a diving board. They knew that smoke rises (smoke signals)—we use the same knowledge in building factory and house chimneys. They knew how to fertilize plants with fish—we use animal waste or commercial fertilizers. With each section there is a simple experiment that is supposed to show the reader "why" such things happen. Actually the experiments merely repeat, in a

slightly different form what the Indians did, and despite the text's insistence that the experiments "prove" something, nothing is proved and very little explained. An interesting idea but a feeble execution.

R Pyle, Howard. Otto of the Silver Hand. 7-9 Scribner, 1957. 136p. \$2.75.

New edition of one of Pyle's most popular books. The story, of a young boy's defiance of the robber barons of the middle ages, is told with a pace and suspense that give it appeal for modern readers. The book has been re-set, using new type but retaining the original Pyle illustrations. The attractively designed binding should give added appeal to the book.

Ad Rapaport, Stella F. Binkley's Bottleneck. 2-4 Putnam, 1956. 72p. \$2.50.

A fictionalized setting for describing the building of a suspension bridge and discussing the advantages of good roads and their effect on the value of land and movement of population. The problem of job loss caused by progress and mechanization is told with feeling and sympathy. Rather too technical for wide general appeal, the book is good for classes studying the economic effects of roads.

R Reinfeld, Fred. Trappers of the West; 7-9 illus. by Douglas Gorsline. Crowell, 1957. 153p. \$2.50.

Concentrating on the area west of the Mississippi, the author briefly traces its history and describes its general contours. He then discusses the Indian tribes that lived there, their relations with the white men, the importance of the beaver trade to the opening of the country and, in general terms, the mountain men who trapped and explored the area. In the final chapters he tells of the main exploits of five of the most famous of the mountain men: John Colter, Bill Williams, Jed Smith, Jim Bridger and Kit Carson. The book is particularly useful for its matter-of-fact, unsentimental look at the country, the Indians and the mountain men. A bibliography at the end will lead interested readers on to more detailed books on the same subject.

M Renick, Marion (Lewis). Bats & Gloves of Glory; illus. by Pru HERRIC. Scribner, 1956. 215p. \$2.50.

Bruce could conceive of nothing more interesting than baseball, so when his school planned to put on a hobby show, he refused to even consider any hobby other than baseball. His classmates were certain he could not produce an exhibit interesting enough to help his room win the award, and even his teacher tried to persuade him to take on a new, and more glamorous, hobby for the

duration of the contest. However, Bruce was adamant, and worked out an exhibit that not only helped win the prize but also served as the basis for a Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in his town. The story has little to offer sports fans, since there is virtually nothing about the game itself. The entire handling of the hobby show would make educators cringe since the emphasis is placed on winning the contest rather than developing permanent interests and the teacher tries to discourage children from following their natural interests in favor of hobbies that lend themselves to unusual exhibits.

NR Rhiner, Gladys. Jimmie Goes to Church;  
K-1 pictures by Janet Smalley. Broadman, 1957. 32p.

Jimmie, a pre-schooler, asks to be allowed to attend the regular church service with his parents. Once there he is the model of unrealistically good behavior as he sits quietly without a wriggle and even attempts to understand the sermon. A poorly written story with a "lesson" that is much too obvious.

Ad Rydberg, Ernie. Conquer the Winds;  
7-9 decorations by Avery Johnson.  
Longmans, 1957. 153p. \$2.75.

Fred (Rocky) Rockford, a wealthy teen-age boy, is living alone, under the care of a housekeeper, while his parents are in Europe. He is given a sports car, imported from Italy, but it is wrecked by his girl friend the first day he has it. Rocky is unjustly blamed for the accident, loses his drivers' license, and, in retaliation, leads a group of boys in an escapade that brings them before the police. Before they are apprehended, however, Rocky has become interested in gliding and his desire to follow this new sport leads him to confess his earlier misdemeanor in order to start out with a clear record. The author shows an understanding of teen-age reactions and of the kinds of misunderstandings that can arise between teen-agers and adults. He tends to moralize at times, especially in the sections dealing with gliding, but on the whole this is a good story for young readers.

R Saint André, Françoise de. Messenger  
3-5 of Fair Island; illus. by Anna Atene. Winston, 1956. 120p. \$2.95.

Set on an island off the French mainland, this is the story of a boy's hopes, dreams and disappointments told in a charming French way. A messenger is to be chosen to invite a well-known soprano to visit the island, and Michel wants to be that messenger more than anything in the world. His attempts to meet the

contest entrance requirements reflect courage, a sense of responsibility, and a maturing adjustment to life. The characterizations are clear and the descriptions are made with beautiful imagery. Especially good for teaching children the art of making poetic word pictures.

NR St. Johns, Elaine. My Friend God; illus.  
K-1 by Dorothy Teichman. Dutton, 1956.  
44p. \$2.75.

A story for young children attempting to express the concept of God to them in ways they will understand. God is explained as their "Friend" and naughtiness is explained as not being on good terms with their "Friend." The ideas are not adequately stated and it is doubted whether young children would grasp these theological problems on which even adults cannot agree. Most small children are not yet capable of such depth of understanding or emotional response.

Ad Sanders, Ruby Wilson. Behind the Scenes  
1-3 in a Super Market; illus. by Baldwin Hawes. Melmont, 1957. 31p. \$1.75.

Brief discussion of the way in which different kinds of foods are handled in a super market, presented in fairly simple text and full page drawings. The book will be more useful for classes studying units on community life than for general reading. Written at an upper second grade reading level.

R Schlein, Miriam. Little Rabbit; The High  
K-1 Jumper; illus. by Theresa Serman.  
Scott, 1957. 48p. \$2.25.

Little rabbit asks his mother for a story so she tells one about a little rabbit who jumped over a mountain and then had to take the long way back home. A delightful story within a story, beautifully illustrated in soft blues, greens and browns. Although the animals are personified in the text, they are real rabbits in the pictures. A story to read aloud to young children.

R Schwartz, Elizabeth Reeder and Charles.  
1-3 Cottontail Rabbit. Holiday House, 1957.  
46p. (A Life-Cycle Story) \$2.50.

The life story of a cottontail rabbit in which the emphasis is on the part played by these animals in the food chain—plants—plant-eaters—carnivores. The text is interestingly written, without personification, and with the hazardous life of the rabbit presented in a matter of fact way that should do much to give young readers an objective attitude toward the animals and the part they play in maintaining the balance of nature. The illustrations, in soft greens and browns, are exceedingly attractive and realistic, and add much to both the interest and enjoyment of the book. The high reading level (4th grade) and the frequent breaking of

words at the end of a line of type will make the book too difficult for young readers to handle alone. However, it is well suited to reading aloud to children at the primary level.

Ad Selby-Lowndes, Joan. Circus Train;  
8-10 illus. by Geoffrey Dean Lewis.  
Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 240p.  
\$3.

A fictionalized biography of Kai Yong, whose juggling and acrobatic troupes were famous throughout Europe and America in the first half of this century. As the reader follows Kai Young's career—as a juggler and then as the director and trainer of acrobatic troops—he sees a picture of the circus and vaudeville world through its heyday to the present time. The rather pedestrian style in which the material is presented robs it of much of the color and appeal that the subject should have had.

NR Sendak, Jack. The Happy Rain; pictures  
1-3 by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1956.  
42p. \$2.50.

The people of Troekan had never known a time when rain did not fall, day and night, and they could imagine no other way of living. Therefore when an unusually severe thunderstorm put an end to the rain one night, they were dismayed. They consulted a wise old man, a scientist, and a philosopher, all without success. Then a small girl suggested that they should send a message of love to the clouds. That was done and the rain returned. A subtle story, dependent on adult humor and concepts that will be beyond the comprehension of most young children. The text is too difficult for independent reading below the fourth grade.

R Sendak, Maurice. Very Far Away.  
3-5 Harper, 1957. 53p. \$2.  
yrs.

Discouraged because his mother was busy bathing the baby and did not have time to answer his questions, young Martin decided to go very far away where there would be someone to answer him. On the way he met a cat who wanted to sing and a horse who wanted to dream, and the three joined forces. At first they were happy together, but soon Martin's questions interrupted the cat's singing, and the cat's singing disturbed the horse's dreaming, so the three parted company. Martin decided that his mother would be through with the baby by now, so he returned home to propound to her some new questions. The story is fairly adult in its concepts, but there

are some elements of child appeal, and the illustrations are quite pleasing.

R Seth-Smith, Elsie K. The Black Tower;  
7-9 illus. by Nancy Sayer. Vanguard, 1957.  
205p. \$3.

A rousing tale of fifteenth century England and of the two princes, Edmund and Jasper, who were to found the Tudor line of British royalty. The story begins when the two boys, five-year-old Jasper and eight-year-old Edmund, were living in a small English village as the nephews of a local farmer. When their safety was threatened they were spirited away to the Sanctuary at Westminster and from there to the Priory at Bermondsey, where for the first time they learned of their identity as the Queen's sons. The story of their succession of flights from Duke Humphrey, who tried to destroy them, and of the intercession of the young King Hal on their behalf makes exciting, suspenseful reading and gives a vivid picture of both peasant and court life of the period.

R Seuss, Dr. The Cat in the Hat. Random  
1- House, 1957. 61p. \$2.

An hilarious account of what happened the day it rained and the Cat in the Hat came visiting while mother was away. In spite of the protests of the fish, the Cat played his tricks until the house was topsy-turvy. Then just before mother returned, he brought in a marvelous contraption for putting all to rights again. The text is so simply written that beginning readers could handle it with ease, and it has all the spontaneous humor of Seuss nonsense at its best. Not only will the book bring welcome relief to beginning readers who are wearying of the stilted prose of their regular texts, but it will also be of use with older students, even into high school, who are severely retarded readers.

Ad Severn, Bill and Sue. Let's Give a Show;  
5-8 illus. by Carla Kenny. Knopf, 1956.  
182p. \$2.50.

Brief information about the main points to be considered in giving different kinds of shows. The first section deals with shows that can be put on by a single person and include: magic, music, puppet, Punch and Judy, ventriloquist, and comedian. The second section includes shows involving more than one person and includes: shadow plays, TV variety shows, circus, minstrel shows, and plays. The third part deals with problems in planning, staging and rehearsing the show; costumes and make-up, and the audience. The book makes an interesting introduction to stagecraft and could serve to inspire young readers to put on some of the suggested shows. The material given here will need to be supplemented by more detailed

books on the various types of shows.

- NR Shapiro, Irwin. Cleo; photographs by  
K-1 Durward B. Graybill. Simon and  
Schuster, 1957. 24p. (A Little  
Golden Book) 25¢.

A series of color photographs of Cleo, a bas-set hound who appears on television. The text is quite obviously written to match the pictures, and both are equally labored.

- R Shuttlesworth, Dorothy Edwards. The  
5-9 Story of Rocks; illus by Su Zan N.  
Swain. Garden City Books, 1956.  
59p. \$2.50.

An interestingly written, beautifully illustrated introduction to rocks and minerals, including suggestions for "rock hounds." There are numerous drawings, both in color and black-and-white to help explain rock formations and for use in identification of rocks. At the end is a listing of states with the kinds of rocks that are common to each state indicated.

- NR Simon, Norma. A Tree for Me; pictures  
K-1 by Helen Stone. Lippincott, 1956.  
26p. \$2.

A small girl tells how she asked for an apple tree on her fifth birthday, planted it and then day-dreamed about all the things she would do to help it grow and the ways in which she would use its apples. The combination of present and future tense is occasionally confusing and there is very little to the story to give young readers a knowledge of how apple trees grow. The timing is especially misleading since the length of time it takes for a tree to produce apples will vary depending on the age of the tree when it is planted.

- M Sisson, Rosemary Anne and Vera Kath-  
1-3 leen. Mr. Nobody; illus. by  
Rosamond Stokes. St. Martin's,  
1957. 45p. \$1.50.

Four short stories about Mr. Nobody, a Peter-kin-type character whose "lady from Philadelphia" is a talking robin. The situations, with their obvious—to everyone except Mr. Nobody—solutions have a certain child humor. The writing is of fairly average quality, with a too frequently arch tone. The paper-board binding is too insubstantial for general library use.

- Ad Slobodkina, Esphyr. The Clock! Abelard-  
K-1 Schuman, 1956. 40p. \$2.50.  
Rather slight, but pleasing story of a Vermont village in which the people all regulate their lives by the village clock. One morning the

clock fails to strike and everyone oversleeps except Mrs. Johnson who is too deaf to hear the clock anyway. A town meeting is called and after much discussion it is decided to clean and repair the clock rather than buying a new one. This is done and once again the clock tells everyone when to get up and when to go to bed.

- Ad Smith, Eunice Young. The House with the  
3-5 Secret Room; house drawings by  
Patrick J. Weishapl. Bobbs-Merrill,  
1956. 114p. \$2.75.

A fictionalized setting for a technical book about house building. The Dillon family had saved for years for a new home. One day their father bought a ravine filled with junk which others had thrown there. They converted it into a lovely site and built a simple, well-planned house, working together. Best of all, Nibs got his secret room about which he had boasted so loudly to his friends. Although there is a bit of moralizing at the beginning of the story and it is rather technical for general use, it is an adequate story for its specific educational purpose.

- SpR Spykman, E. C. The Wild Angel. Harcourt,  
5-7 1957. 221p. \$2.75.

A sequel to Lemon and a Star that takes the Cares Children through the events of their first year with their stepmother. The focus of interest is on Jane whose failure to learn anything at Miss Lincoln's school results first in the hiring of a governess and then in Jane's exile to her grandfather's house in Charlottesville. Like the first book, this one is an episodic, but exceedingly realistic treatment of family relationships, with many rough as well as pleasant aspects presented. The story is rather slow-moving and too introspective for any except the more mature, perceptive readers.

- SpC Steiner, Charlotte. 6 Little Chicks. Peg-  
6-12 gy Cloth-Books, 1957. 8p. \$1.50.  
mos.

A cloth book with full-page pictures and a brief text that is a variation on the "This little pig went to market" rhyme. The illustrations are pleasing; the text is wholly unnecessary for children of the cloth book age. A stuffed toy chick is attached, which may be used as a toy or a bath sponge.

- M Stevenson, Robert Louis. A Child's Garden  
K-2 of Verses; selected and illus. by  
Eloise Wilkin. Simon and Schuster,  
1957. 24p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢.

Sixteen well known verses from Stevenson's well-loved volume. The selection is well made but the excessively sentimental illustrations do little justice to the quality and appeal of the rhymes.